

INK SLINGS.

Helen Wills has won the National tennis championship for the fourth time. We can forgive her for that, but every time we see a big, fat woman in the back seat of an automobile, smirking as though she looks classy, in one of those abominable capless visors that Helen brought into vogue, we know there is a lot we can't forgive the California star for.

Three of the three and one half million letters and telegrams Col. Lindbergh has received since his daring flight to Europe contain suggestions that he attempt to ride to the moon on a rocket fired from earth. Some think that Lindy was fool-hardy in his trans-Atlantic flight, but we're quite sure that he isn't moonstruck enough to consider these lunatic proposals.

The sudden death of John W. Yearick leaves our party with only two nominees for County Commissioner one of whom happens to be Burdine Butler the perennial aspirant. It is not too late for someone to file a petition for a place on the primary ballot but it looks as though fate has played into Burdine's hands at last, unless another aspirant appears to beat him out just when it seems in his grasp.

Really something ought to be done about it. Every time an aviator attempts a hop over an ocean to win a valuable prize the government feels that it is its duty to expend millions of dollars in an attempt to rescue him in the event of his failure to reach his destination. We're just as chicken hearted as the next fellow, where someone in distress is concerned, but we think the government ought to protect itself against any moral obligation for the salvage of sea-going hacks.

Of course we don't know how true it is, but we have heard a report to the effect that Governor Fisher recently sent for the Hon. Holmes and the Hon. honored the Governor by responding in person to the summons. We don't know what they talked about, but there are them that say that since the Hon. has returned to State College he has been seen a lot with Eugene Lederer, who is leader of the Furst crowd up there. Inasmuch as our Representative was head and front of the Fleming propaganda before his visit to Harrisburg his recent antics are viewed with both suspicion and alarm by Fleming's friends. John Laird is a foxy gink. He doesn't seem to care as much as to who his political bedfellows are as he does as to how soft the bed is for himself.

Wednesday's papers announced the successful flight of three hundred and fifty miles made Leo Stevens in a "vest pocket" balloon of his own design. Leo is a veteran aviator. His midge balloon, basket and all, weighs less than fifty pounds and his undertaking was watched with much interest by those interested in aerial navigation. Bellefonte remembers Leo well. Years and years ago he made daily ascents and parachute drops for a week at Hecla Park and one day he went up from the "Diamond" in Bellefonte taking a dog along with him to be dropped by a smaller parachute. In its struggles through fright the poor little canine got its harness tangled just as the balloon swept upward and while its parachute opened when released the ropes were so tangled that it couldn't fully expand and there was a dead dog when it landed on the hill behind the Presbyterian church.

With only eighteen days intervening until the primaries candidates are burning up so much gas that, almost, we are envious of the proprietors of the filling stations. Naturally, most of the interest centers in the contest for the judicial nomination on the Republican ticket and that, according to our information, looks like it will be a neck and neck race right up to the close of the polls on the 20th. Being the large centers of Republican strength Bellefonte, Philipsburg and State College will probably decide the issue between Judge Furst and M. Ward Fleming Esq. Some weeks ago it was generally admitted that State College was leaning rather far over on the Fleming side, not because it disliked or opposed Judge Furst, but merely because Mr. Fleming has for some years been in more intimate contact with the personal and civic life of that community. We understand, however, that they have decided to play poker politics up there this time, for expediency's sake, and one of the rules of that grand old game being that "friendship ceases" with the first deal, Mr. Fleming is to get nothing more than a fifty-fifty break. That being so it will be necessary for Judge Furst to muster enough strength in Bellefonte and such townships as he is known to be strong in as will overcome the majority that Mr. Fleming will have in Philipsburg and the Rushes. We were offered a bet in Philipsburg, a few evenings ago, that Mr. Fleming would get seventy-five percent of the Republican vote of that borough. It was offered by a Democrat who is for Mr. Walker for Judge so we have to regard that as a non-partisan opinion of the situation, so far as Philipsburg is concerned. Very powerful sinews in political warfare are at Judge Furst's command, however, and if they are brought into play he will have an army at his back that will take more than a seventy-five percent vote in Philipsburg to overcome.

Democratic Watchman

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Execution of Vanzetti and Sacco.

The intense feeling that has been aroused throughout the world by the execution of Vanzetti and Sacco, last week, is unaccountable on any theory of reasoning. They were fairly tried, according to the best evidence attainable, and justly convicted. They were given every opportunity provided by law and the practice of courts to prove their innocence. If they had been sons of wealthy or distinguished parents no greater consideration could have been given to their pleas for clemency or commutation. In the face of these facts it is not easy to see why men and women in all parts of the world should become hysterical because they were compelled to pay the usual penalty for the crime of which they had been accused.

The fault may lay, in part at least, in the system of administering justice in Massachusetts. The murder of which Vanzetti and Sacco were accused was perpetrated at Braintree on April 15th, 1920. The defendants were arrested May 31st, 1921, and convicted July 14th, 1921. On December 21st, 1921, a motion for a new trial was made and denied. Thus far the proceedings were reasonably expeditious but in no respect hurried. But no further steps were taken for nearly two years when the defendants were examined by alienists and declared sane. If the execution of the sentence had followed in reasonable time there would have been nothing unusual in the case.

At this stage of the legal tragedy tardiness set in. Nothing was done until January, 1926, when a fellow prisoner, also convicted of murder, declared that a gang of which he was a member had committed the crime. A year and three months later a motion for a new trial on the strength of this statement was entered and denied and date of execution fixed for the week of July 10th. Three months later the execution was postponed to August 10th and the Governor named a committee of distinguished men to investigate, whose report sustained the verdict of guilty. On Aug. 9th a new trial was denied and the Governor again postponed the execution until August 22nd. August 19th to 22nd the Supreme court of Massachusetts and four justices of the Supreme court of the United States refused to interfere.

After these exhaustive efforts in behalf of the defendants they were executed on the morning of August 22nd under "due process of law." Since April 9th, when the sentence of death was pronounced, an apparently organized agitation, mainly by radicals, anarchists and professional mischief makers, with the obvious purpose of intimidating the authorities, occurred in various cities in Europe, the South American Republics and some cities in the United States. Bombs have been thrown and violence to officials threatened and after the execution plans were laid to carry the bodies throughout the country to arouse enmities and create trouble. If the law and justice had been enforced with reasonable expedition much, if not all, of this might have been averted.

Only a little over two weeks intervene until the September primaries. The list of candidates in Centre county, from those for Judge down to the district offices, is quite large, and naturally the average voter may be somewhat perplexed as to whom to vote for. The Watchman has no intention of offering any advice, believing that the choice of candidates at the primaries is entirely the prerogative of the individual voter. But we do believe that every voter in the county should exercise that right, as only by so doing can he or she assist in nominating the right men for the various offices.

It will be recalled that when former Judge Arthur C. Dale announced that he would be a candidate for nomination on the Republican ticket this fall we expressed the opinion that there might be a chance for him to slip in between the other two contenders and win out. The campaign has progressed to the point where we think we are justified in saying that there isn't a chance for Arthur. The other two are running so close together that he couldn't squeeze in between them even if he had both Gifford and Rebecca Naomi pushing him.

The Rockefeller Foundation has officially announced that the hook worm disease has practically disappeared from this country. Now if most of the ballot crooks could be disposed of "we might be happy yet, you bet."

It snowed in York county last Saturday, the result, probably, of Sam Lewis' recent declaration for Secretary Mellon, for President.

Lowden's Hat in the Ring.

The first hat in the ring for the free-for-all race for the Republican nomination for President next year is that of ex-Governor Frank O. Lowden, of Illinois. It has been announced in Washington and broadcast through the newspapers that Mr. Lowden has engaged a campaign manager in the person of Fred Starek, of Ohio, who is catalogued in the statement as the pre-convention manager of the late President Harding in 1920. This is surprising information as Harry Daugherty, subsequently Mr. Harding's Attorney General, has been popularly credited with the political diplomacy that resulted in that widely regretted nomination. Mr. Starek served during the Harding regime in the War Finance Corporation.

Mr. Lowden, according to estimates of friends, will enter the convention with considerable strength. It is claimed that in eleven western and northwestern States, including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Tennessee, he will have 333 votes on the first ballot "from States west of the Allegheny mountains." Mr. Starek's job will be to gather enough delegates from the north and east of the Alleghenies to make up a majority, and it is reasoned that one who developed Mr. Harding's meagre nucleus into a majority of the 1920 convention can achieve that result "with one hand tied behind his back." But there are likely to be "favorite sons" in a good many of the States named.

Governor Lowden is believed to be very solid in the "corn belt," and being a likable fellow may be popular in the cotton and wheat growing sections. But Mr. Starek will find hard sledding in the east where Wall Street and the corporate interests are entrenched. Of course Mr. Lowden has plenty of money, himself, and his identity with the Pullman corporation may have a softening influence on the minds of corporate managers. But his boosters are likely to encounter difficulties in the cotton belt section. The delegates who represent those constituencies are office holders rather than planters, and spot cash is more appealing to them than sentiment.

It is said that there are no regular Republican newspapers in Pittsburgh, since the recent mergers. But, unfortunately, all the newspapers there support the atrocious Republican machine.

Pittsburgh Courts Foster Frauds.

The Republican machine method of protecting electoral frauds has again been exposed by the courts in Allegheny county. An examination of the assessors' lists of the First ward of the city of Pittsburgh had revealed "padding" to the extent of 2000 names, and a petition was presented to the court for a judicial inquiry. The Republican organization objected on the ground "that the case should first be taken before the board of assessment and revision of taxes," and the court, Judges Reid and Rowland on the bench, sustained the objection. This essentially technical interpretation of the law defeated the purpose to prevent fraud at the coming primary and probably at the general election.

To comply with this decision of the court would consume so much time as to make the investigation valueless, so far as the primary election is concerned, for the reason that even if the padding of the lists, as complained of, were clearly shown, an appeal to the courts would be necessary to secure a correction of the lists. It would be physically impossible to get through with this legal formula within the period before the primary election and thus the machine, financed by chairman Mellon and managed by Senator Max Leslie, is assured of at least 2000 fraudulent votes in a single ward for their candidates. Whether or not other voting districts are similarly packed remains to be seen.

Like the Vane machine in Philadelphia, the Mellon machine in Pittsburgh professes to favor honest elections. But they put every available obstacle in the way of measures which would guarantee improvement in electoral processes. The reform element in Pittsburgh is making a strenuous contest for the nomination of fit candidates, and believe that with an honest election they will achieve their laudable purpose. But if padding of voters' lists has been accomplished in other parts of the city in the same ratio as in the First ward they will be disappointed, of course, and the fraudulent voting and false counting which put Mr. Mellon in control last year will be continued indefinitely.

There is a new star in the Milky Way, and several new scandals in the movie circle.

Mellon Coerced by Vane.

Former Mayor J. Hampton Moore, of Philadelphia, who is the candidate of the better element of the Republican voters for Mayor, has written a letter to W. L. Mellon, of Pittsburgh, chairman of State committee of his party, rather sharply rebuking him for virtually endorsing "the Vane slated candidates and the Kendrick administration." Mr. Moore practically declares that because the chairman of the State committee lives out of the jurisdiction he has no moral right to interfere in a contest between two members of the party for a nomination when one of them represents "traction grabs, city hall annex grabs or Sesqui-centennial extravagance that have helped to run the city in debt."

Obviously Mr. Moore doesn't understand the purposes of Mr. Mellon or accurately measure his political philosophy. Mr. Mellon's present aim in politics is to re-elect his "obedient servant," David A. Reed, as Senator in Congress. To accomplish that result it is necessary to secure the cordial as well as the criminal support of William S. Vane. To acquire that he must favor any candidate or any measure which Mr. Vane "chooses" to put over, and if the candidate were a convicted felon instead of the fairly reputable lawyer he happens to be, Mr. Mellon could and probably would support him without the least disturbance to his conscience. He is playing the game according to the Vane rules.

As a matter of fact William S. Vane has become the absolute master of the Republican party of Pennsylvania. A year ago Mr. Mellon, Governor Fisher and others felt they had full liberty to denounce him, and if their opposition had been successful he would have been powerless to resent the action. But he won then and with the complete control of the party force in Philadelphia can make or mar any State-wide candidate. In the exercise of this power he probably compelled Governor Fisher to violate the law by naming four Republicans as Registration Commissioners of Philadelphia and by the same sinister force has compelled chairman Mellon to stuff his ticket.

The Vanzetti and Sacco funerals in Boston, on Sunday, created little disorder and the chances are that those disturbances will soon be forgotten.

Digging Out the Roots.

The friends of good government in all parts of Pennsylvania will draw hope from the warning issued by district attorney Fox, concurred in by George J. Brennan, chairman of the Board of Registration Commissioners, of Philadelphia. The warning is addressed to "all citizens who register, all registration officials and all others who may assume the functions of registration officials," and it serves notice "that violations of the registration law will be promptly and vigorously dealt with so far as within the scope of the district attorney's office." The various forms which ballot crooks adopt and the penalties for the crimes are recited. It is a timely and significant declaration.

District attorney Fox, who has prosecuted and convicted more ballot fraud criminals within two years than his predecessors in the office in twenty years, says, "my experience in recent prosecutions of cases involving election frauds demonstrates that in the majority of such matters the very basis of such criminal practices is on registration days." For this reason he proposes to "begin at the beginning" and follow the trail to the end. Heretofore attention has been directed to crimes committed at the primary or general election polls and the root of the evil is undisturbed. This year the roots will be inspected and the rotten elements carefully and thoroughly removed.

Because district attorney Fox has manifested his purposes in the future by his acts in the past Boss Vane has refused him a nomination, though he knows that a vast majority of the voters of the city favor honest elections and would reward, rather than penalize, just and efficient public service. But Boss Vane believes that by padding the registration lists, casting fraudulent votes and making false returns he will be able to defeat the majority and put a servile follower in the office who will protect, rather than prosecute, criminals. It remains to be seen whether his expectations will be fulfilled or disappointed. If the honest people are just to themselves he will be, disappointed.

An "anti-gang" party has been formed in Philadelphia to support the Vane gang ticket and thus, stupidly, the Vane hand is revealed.

Subscribe for the Watchman.

Grange Encampment Draws Big Crowds Daily.

This has been a big week for the Grangers at Centre Hall. Their encampment on Grange park is bigger and better than ever and there are enough side attractions to afford plenty of diversion when the crowd wearies of looking at the exceedingly creditable exhibitions of stock, farming implements and, farm produce of all kinds. The program, as published in last week's Watchman, was carried out in detail.

Wednesday, as published, was given over to the old soldiers for the annual reunion of the Centre county Veteran club. Twenty-five veterans responded, and at the business meeting presided over by the president, W. H. Bartholomew, the following officers were elected: President, W. H. Bartholomew; vice president, B. D. Brisbin; secretary and treasurer, Capt. W. H. Fry. Announcement was made that twenty-three veterans had died during the year. The speakers for the day included county superintendent H. Glenn Rogers, Prof. Adams and Hon. J. Laird Holmes, of State College; M. Ward Fleming, and L. C. Chase, a colored veteran, of Philipsburg.

Twenty-five veterans were present at the reunion, namely: William Flack, 83; William Colpetzer, 81; John Griffith, 85, of Bellefonte. Cyrus Bowman, 82, of Blanchard. B. D. Brisbin, 85; W. H. Bartholomew, 81, of Centre Hall. George W. Gill, 86, of Julian. John I. Williams, 84; Benjamin F. Hoy, 84, of Lemont. Samuel R. Gettig, 89, of Madisonburg. Capt. W. H. Fry, 84; C. H. Martz, 79, of Pine Grove Mills. Miles Morrison, 80; L. C. Chase, 82, of Philipsburg. T. A. Snyder, 83; Cyrus Walker, 85, J. B. Holter, 81; Benjamin Espenshade, 88; Prof. M. M. Garver, 79; Philip S. Dale, 85, of State College. George Dubbs, 82, of Unionville. David Williams, 85.

Those who died during the year were John Kern, J. B. Weaver, N. A. Houtz, W. H. Close, S. H. Griffith, Harry Cupp, George E. Gummo, J. P. Shirk, J. P. Alters, Miles Dukeman, Daniel Eberhart, W. E. Tate, Nelson Lucas, Russell George, James Lese, James Gallagher, Samuel E. Barr, J. T. Abt, James Johnstonbaugh, John Campbell, Frank Hunter and William Gill.

The Klansmen had an official ceremony on the ball-field Wednesday night. There was quite a large gathering of them and they shot off bombs, burned a cross and listened to speeches by Klan orators.

While the weather just suits some of the campers there are others who think it most too cool for sleeping in tents. Some of the latter have taken to going home at night in order to keep warm.

From a sports standpoint the exciting feature of the day was the ball game between the Grass Flat and Centre Hall teams. They played 19 innings and darkness ended the game before either side could break the tied score of 1-1.

Big Rally at Bald Eagle.

A big rally and picnic will be held at the church at Bald Eagle tomorrow (Saturday) and as everybody in the upper end of that valley has been invited it promises to be a big time. It will be in the shape of a basket picnic but refreshments can be secured on the ground. The program includes speeches, music, games, etc.

Pennsylvania railroad officials have decided to put a stop to the loafing on the railroad siding at the old pump house. Railroad policeman Fred Giles came to Bellefonte on Monday with strict orders to arrest anyone seen trespassing on the company's property at that place.

Exposing the blunders of the treasury estimates is a favorite and easy diversion of Representative Oldfield, chairman of the Democratic Congressional committee.

American architects were excluded from competition for plans for the Palace of Nations, at Geneva, and American architects know where to place the blame.

Paris artists and sculptors say that young women are losing "their good shapes." But they are increasing in power to wield the rolling pin.

It would be difficult to imagine anything more futile than predicting the result of a Democratic National convention a year in advance.

The week-end conferences of Philadelphia politicians at the shore resorts were rather gloomy last Sunday.

The "Watchman" is the most readable paper published. Try it.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Clayd G. Bell, 49, of Johnstown, was electrocuted on Saturday while at work for the Cambria Fuel company at Carpenter Park, Somerset county. Rescue workers endeavored for three hours to revive the victim.

The new highway leading from Mount Union to McVeytown and Lewistown has been completed and has been opened to traffic. The last part of the road built was that which leads out of Mount Union. The new road will mean the shortening of the distance between Mount Union and Lewistown and Harrisburg. It also connects McVeytown with that city.

Samuel Kerstetter is a truck driver who won't take a dare. Not even if it is given by a woman, and here's why. Miss Esther Jarkovick, living near Shamokin, was hanging up clothes on a line over a road at the rear of her home just as the truck driver was about to pass. He asked her to take it down. She refused, and Kerstetter drove his truck through. Charges of malicious mischief proffered against him were held under advisement.

Frank Bobilla, of Coal Castle, near Pottsville, became despondent and fastened his belt about his neck and to the top stringer of a grape arbor. He changed his mind about suicide just as he prepared to jump and called for help. The change of mind was too late, however, as he plunged from the arbor and broke his neck. His wife held the body to prevent strangulation and called for help, but by the time several men responded her husband was dead.

Work of drilling for oil on the property of William Bowser, of Philipsburg, will be started this week by employees of the Beam Natural Gas company, of Bethlehem. The Bowser tract, located a mile and a quarter north of Blue Ball, 200 feet from the main highway, has been leased by the gas company with anticipations of drilling night and day until oil is struck. Several large truck loads of machinery have been transported to the drilling site and the foundation laid for the national drill.

The choice of an airplane as the quickest means of getting to a party several miles away, proved unfortunate for Donald Charles, of Williamsport. The commercial plane Charles appropriated was wrecked, and Charles is in the Lycoming county jail, on charges of larceny. Charles had some airplane experience during the World War but as he left the ground realized that he had forgotten most of his war training. About 100 feet up the plane began shimmying "took a nose dive and trip and plane ended right there. Charles escaped unhurt.

The 1927 edition of the Pennsylvania State Manual, formerly known as Small's Legislative Hand Book, is expected to be off the press and ready for distribution by October 1. The new edition will total 32,000 copies and the bureau of publications already has received a number of requests for copies. Among the new features in the book will be tax and educational statistics. The tax figures will show receipts from various sources and the educational statistics will give enrollment of schools, the amount of State aid, and various classes of school districts and other information of a similar character.

An Indian ceremonial oak newly discovered by S. L. Parkes, president of the William Penn-Conservation Association, in the Oley Valley, Berks county, is estimated to be over 400 years old. Parkes, who has purchased from the present owners of the farm the land where the tree stands, a tract held for many generations by the Hoch (High) family, says the tree was standing when Columbus reached America. It is over twenty-two feet in circumference, seventy-two feet high and spreads 110 feet. Indians conducted pow-wows and peace conclaves under its branches for many years, local legends say.

A bee which got into an automobile driven by Fred O. Matthieson, of Collingsdale, Northampton county, while he was traveling from Sellersville to Friedensburg on July 2, 1926, caused a lot of trouble and its sequel is a suit for \$10,000 damages against Matthieson brought by Emile Birkel, of Bethlehem. The latter's son, John 11 years old, who was driving with Matthieson at the time, was killed when the owner lost control of his wheel as he was trying to kill the bee. In the suit brought in the Northampton county Court it is alleged that Matthieson was negligent in the operation of the automobile when he removed his hands from the wheel.

With the finding of more than 1,000 stolen live chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese and guinea hens, on an isolated farm at Indian Run Gap, on Monday, Lebanon county police officials and private detectives cleared up wholesale poultry thefts, which have been occurring for three months in the Schuylkill, Berks and Lebanon county farming sections. Charles Schmolze, a former resident of Pottsville, is in the Reading hospital under police guard, while his father-in-law, George Bickelman, also a former Pottsville resident, is a fugitive from justice, as a result of the discovery of the farm and the poultry. Schmolze was shot while trying to evade arrest.

Williamsport police are combing that city in an effort to apprehend four men who on Saturday night seized Mrs. Cynthia Quegel, while she was walking on Walnut street, near Fourth street, placed a sack over her head, bound and gagged her, threw her into a motor car and while speeding to the west end of the city, tried to compel her to confess certain wrongdoings. Failing in this, the men clipped her hair and threatened to tie her to a tree and whip her. "Don't do that," opposed one of the men. "I've got a daughter of my own." Then another, peering into Mrs. Quegel's face, exclaimed, "You're not the girl we want," whereupon the four tossed her into a hedge and drove away.

Announcement has been made that booklets containing the game, fish and forest laws are off the press and ready for delivery to interested persons throughout the State. Copies may be obtained from the Bureau of Publications, the Game Commission, the Department of Forests and Waters, the Bureau of Animal Industry or the Fish Commission at Harrisburg and in addition county treasurers will be supplied with a limited number of the booklets for distribution. Although hand-capped by a disastrous fire in the State Printery, the Bureau of Publications believes it has broken all records for early publication of these laws. Previously the game laws often had not been published before the opening of the hunting season.